

THANK YOU FOR
JOINING US TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Pumpkin Killing!

Join us Sunday, October 27th from 1:30-4pm at Orcutt Hill Picnic Grounds for pumpkin carving, launching and eating. All are welcome, no sign ups.

Watch previous year's recap videos at ourelement.org/pk

Invites with directions available on the communion tables.

High School Murder

Mystery Party

Friday, October 25th, 6pm.

Ways to Give to Element

Lots of ways you can donate to Element, including through the mobile app called "Church Center." Just search Element. You can also give by by texting any dollar amount to 84321.

Gospel Community (GC)

GC's are our primary organizing structure here at Element. It's where we see Disciple Making take place when we orient our lives together, on and around the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is where we commit to grow as a disciple, disciple others, and make disciples; to share our lives so they are visible and accessible.


DISCIPLE: A disciple is one who increasingly submits their life to the all-empowering Lordship of Jesus Christ.


JOIN: Connect with a Group by emailing connect@ourelement.org or visiting the Welcome Center.



Join Our Weekly Email Update

Sign up using a Connect Card located under the seat in front of you or by going to ourelement.org.

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Ecclesiastes

The Existential Hangover



Week 27: Working Smarter Than Vapor Part 1 Ecclesiastes 10:5-7

TODAY'S VERSES:

Ecclesiastes 10:5-7

Ecclesiastes 10:1-2

Psalms 14:1

1 Corinthians 10:31

Colossians 3:22

Proverbs 22:29

Ephesians 2:10

Psalms 130:3

Week 27: Working Smarter Than Vapor Part 1 *Ecclesiastes 10:5-7*

Today in Ecclesiastes, Solomon will write in a way that will hopefully get our imaginations to see how bad folly, or being foolish, is in our lives. He will use the analogy of perfume and say that nothing may have been wrong with the fragrance of a perfume to start off, but it had attracted a swarm of flies. Some of the insects had died, and the stench of their carcasses had turned the perfume rancid. Wisdom is sweet, like fragrant perfume, but it doesn't take much foolishness to turn the smell into something sour because folly stinks. Derek Kidner commented, *"It is easier to make a stink than to create sweetness."*

Have you ever had a good (sweet) thing turn bad (sour)?

Were you surprised by the change?

Ecclesiastes is meant to help give us wisdom; the book is meant to be a godly fragrance. The book will show us wisdom in a unique way: by looking at the failures of Solomon's life. With a careful study of the Word of God, we see that wisdom is not learned from a single example or a short list of commands, but from a lifetime of reflection on the experiences we have been through. Solomon has intention in his words. He contrasts the wise way and the foolish way, then he wants us to ask the question: "Am I living wisely or foolishly?"

What are some wise and foolish decisions you have made in life?

Are you currently living wisely or foolishly?

A question that the last chapters in Ecclesiastes push us to answer is: Which direction are you going in life? They are questions that relate to temptation and whether or not we run from it. Are we seeking a greater understanding of the Gospel with our focus upon Jesus, or are we seeking greater comfort and self-interest? We are called to be a people who use everything we have gone through in life to draw others closer to God. We do this through drawing near to, and glorifying God in ALL circumstances. The heart is the core of a person's being, the inside part of every person that either loves or does not love God; everything in life follows the heart. The wise man goes the right way because his heart leans towards God, but the wicked man's heart leans in the opposite direction.

Which direction are you going in life?

Which way is your heart leaning?

Does reading the Scriptures seem stale?

Are you tired of hearing about Jesus and His work?

The sad thing about a fool is that he is on the wrong road but he does not even realize it. *Ecc 10:3 Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense, and he says to everyone that he is a fool.* This is part of the definition of a fool: he seems to be the only person who does not know that he is a fool! Fools usually believe that they alone are wise and that everyone else is a fool. One of the reasons why the Bible defines the difference between wisdom and folly is so we can choose the road in life that we follow.

Read Ephesians 2:8-10.

What have we been created for?

Do good works save us?

So why does God have things in advance for us to do?

God's people are meant to be a pleasing aroma wherever they are, wisdom in our lives will enable us to realize where we are leaving a stink and stop. The only way to really stop is to have our focus on the gospel first.

Are you a dead fly in the ointment making a good thing smell bad?

How can you not contribute to it stinking and helping it be sweet?

When we work or have jobs that seem boring and insignificant there is only one way to deal with it, Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:31 that whatever we do we should do for the glory of God. Paul says a reverential relationship with Jesus must be part of the dynamic behind everything that we do.

What is your job? How well do you do your job?

How can you improve upon doing it the right way?

The Biblical way to deal with fools is not by sharing in their folly, not by agreeing with them, but by living out the character of Christ. Solomon says that the best response to anger is to remain calm and engage in a spirit of grace. By His own calm response, Jesus laid great offenses to rest, carrying our sins to the cross and forgiving everyone who trusts in Him (including some of the very men who crucified Him).

How is Jesus calling you to deal with certain situations around you now?

Do you need prayer or help for those situations?

Let those around you pray for you.